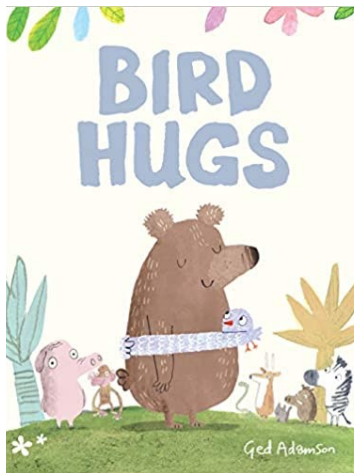


Bird Hugs by Ged Adamson

Bernard isn't like other birds. His wings are impossibly long, and try as he might, he just can't seem to fly. But a chance encounter leads Bernard to a surprising discovery. Maybe what makes him different is actually something to be embraced.

Lexile: AD480L



Lion Lessons by John Agee

There are seven steps to becoming a proper lion, including Looking Fierce, Roaring, Prowling Around, and Pouncing. Our young hero, a rather meek and scrawny human boy, does his best to learn the necessary training. After a grueling set of lessons, the boy discovers that the final step—Looking Out for Your Friends—is the most important of all.

Lexile: 490L

Do you See my Tail? by Anita Bijsterbosch

Guess who I am! The forest animals in this book only show their tails at first. Bushy tails, teeny tiny tails, round tails ... Do you know which animal is hiding behind the flap? And where the baby animals live? Find out!

Bear Needs Help by Sarah Brannen

A lumbering little polar bear has one shoe untied, and he needs some help! What's Bear going to do? Luckily, two plucky birds are more than happy to help out and offer advice -- though probably not quite in the way that readers anticipate. | Lexile: 210L



Peep and Egg: I'm Not Hatching by Laura Gehl

Egg is not hatching, no way, no how. It is too scary out there. Peep wants Egg to hatch so they can do fun things together, like watch the sunrise, splash in puddles, and play hide-and-seek. Nevertheless, Egg is not cracking... | Lexile: AD400L

Mother Bruce by Ryan Higgins

Bruce the bear likes to keep to himself. That, and eat eggs. However, when his hard-boiled goose eggs turn out to be real, live goslings, he starts to lose his appetite. Even worse, the goslings are convinced he is their mother. Bruce tries to get the geese to go south, but he cannot seem to rid himself of his new companions. What is a bear to do? | Lexile: 500L

One Big Pair of Underwear

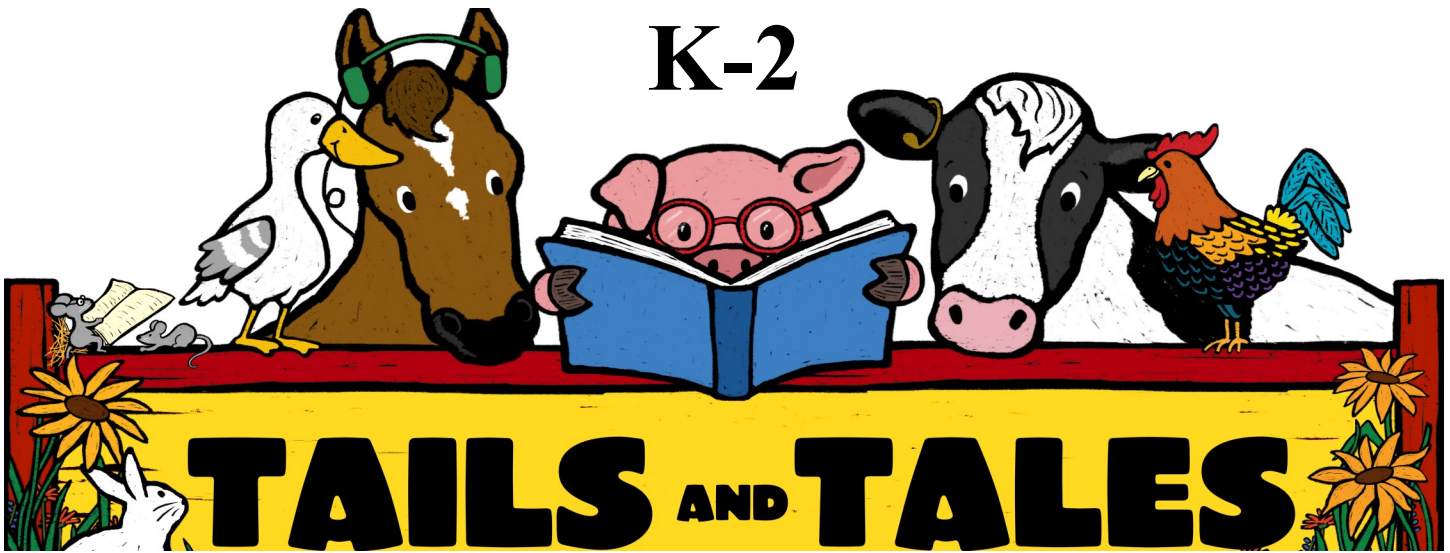
by Laura Gehl and Tom Lichtenheld

What's one thing that two bears, three yaks, four goats, and six cats have in common? They hate to share. However, look out—here comes a pack of twenty pigs ready to prove that sharing makes everything twice as fun! Lexile: AD420L

The Book Hog by Greg Pizzoli

The Book Hog loves books and he will grab whatever he can find. There is only one problem. He cannot read! When a kind librarian invites him to join story time, this literature-loving pig discovers the treasure that books really are. Lexile Range: 410L - 600L

K-2



Fiction

I Am Every Good Thing by Derrick Barnes

The confident African American narrator of this book is proud of everything that makes him who he is. He's got big plans, and no doubt he'll see them through--as he's creative, adventurous, smart, funny, and a good friend.

Lexile: NP410L - 600L

Birdsong by Julie Flett

When Katherena and her mother move to a small town, Katherena feels lonely and out of place. But when she meets Agnes, an elderly woman artist who lives next door, Katherena's world starts to change. She and Agnes share the same passions for arts and crafts, birds, and nature. But as the seasons change, can Katherena navigate the failing health of her new friend?

Lexile: 560L

We Are Water Protectors

by Carole Lindstrom

Water is the first medicine. It affects and connects us all. When a black snake threatens to destroy the Earth And poison her people's water, one young water protector takes a stand to defend Earth's most sacred resource.

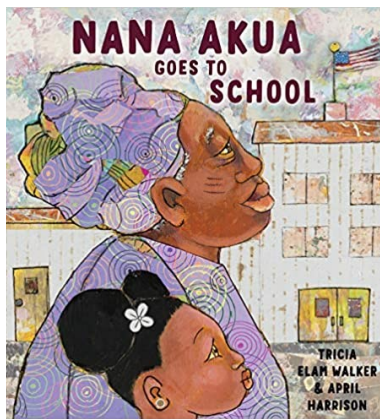
The Old Truck

by Jerome Pumphrey and Jarrett Pumphrey

On a small, bustling farm, a resilient and steadfast pickup works tirelessly alongside the family that lives there, and becomes a part of the dreams and ambitions of the family's young daughter. | Lexile: AD260L

Nana Akua Goes to School

by Tricia Elam Walker



It is Grandparents Day at Zura's elementary school, and the students are excited to introduce their grandparents and share what makes them special. Nana Akua was raised in Ghana, and, following an old West African tradition, has tribal markings on her face. Worried that her classmates will be scared of Nana--or worse, make fun of her--Zura is hesitant to bring her to school. With a quilt of traditional African symbols and a bit of face paint, Nana Akua is able to explain what makes her special, and to make all of Zura's classmates feel special, too.

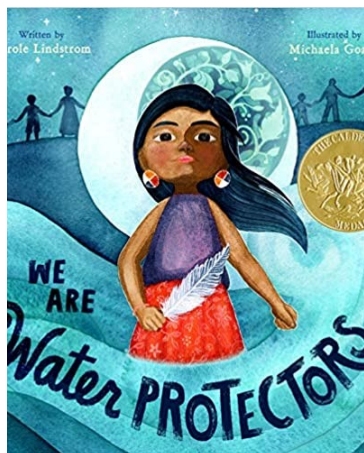
Lexile: 830L

Nonfiction

Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera

by Candace Fleming

A tiny honeybee emerges through the wax cap of her cell. Driven to protect and take care of her hive, she cleans the nursery and feeds the larvae and the queen. But is she strong enough to fly? Not yet! | Lexile: AD750L

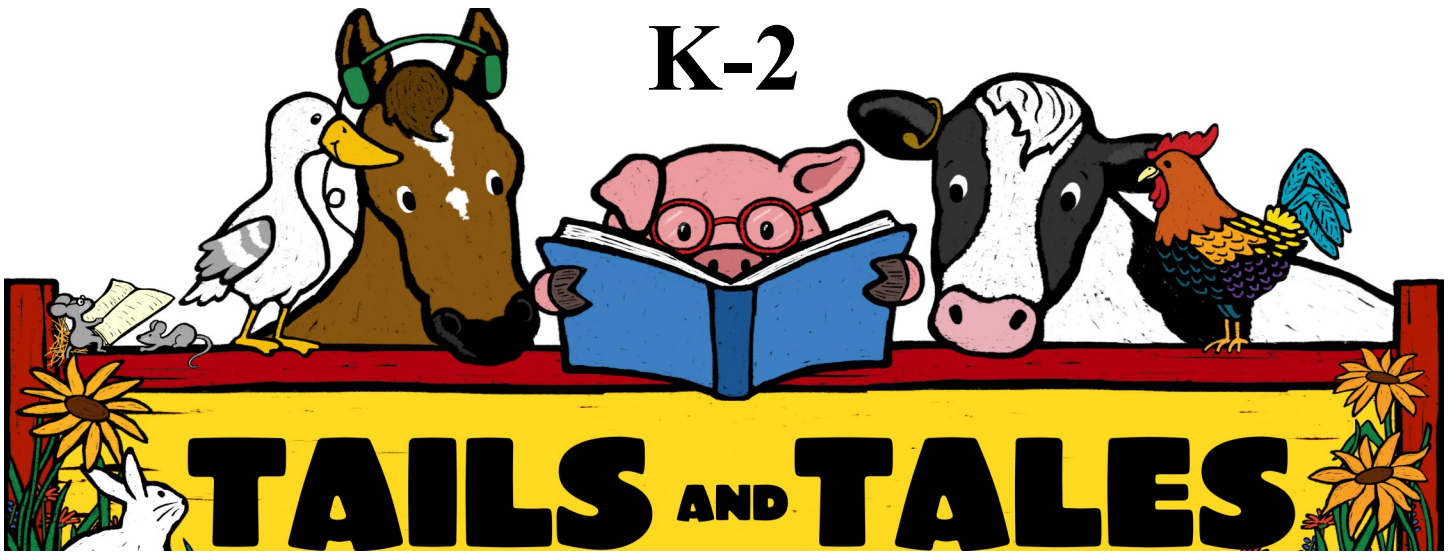


We are Grateful: Otsaliheliga

by Traci Sorell

The word *otsaliheliga* (oh-jah-LEE-hay-lee-gah) is used by members of the Cherokee Nation to express gratitude. Beginning in the fall with the new year and ending in summer, follow a full Cherokee year of celebrations and experiences. | Lexile: NC970L

Many of the listed books were recognized as exemplary books by one or more of the following organizations: *American Library Association (ALA)*, *Children's Literature & Reading and Special Interest Group (CL/R SIG)*, *Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP)*, *American Indian Library Association (AILA)*, *International Literacy Association (ILA)*, *National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)*, *National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)*, *National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)*, *National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)*, *American Association of the Advancement of Science (AAAS)*, *United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY)*.



Featured Connecticut Authors



Abdul-Razak Zachariah

Abdul-Razak Zachariah grew up in West Haven, Connecticut. He graduated from Yale University in 2017 where he was deeply involved in diversity and inclusion advocacy. In addition to being a recipient of the Mellon Mays Research

Fellowship, Abdul-Razak was awarded Yale's Nakaniishi Prize. He previously worked in programming and development at a youth development organization in New Haven. Currently, he is a graduate student at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Book Title:
The Night is Yours



Martha Seif Simpson

Martha Simpson remembers desperately wanting to learn how to read when she was young, but it took her a while to figure out how to do it. When she was in third grade, she found *Henry Huggins* by Beverly Cleary, and that book turned her into a real reader! Martha then started writing for fun in eighth grade.

Martha is the Head of Children's Services in a library in Connecticut.

Book Titles:
Esther's Gragger: A Toyshop Tale of Purim
The Dreidel That Wouldn't Spin
What NOT to Give You Mom on Mother's Day



Janet Lawler

Janet Lawler was born and grew up in Milford, Connecticut, where she and her older sister cared for chickens, dogs, rabbits, ducks, and a large vegetable garden. She played make believe games with her sister and friends, created cards and crafts, fished with her father, swam, and ice skated on nearby ponds, and read a lot.

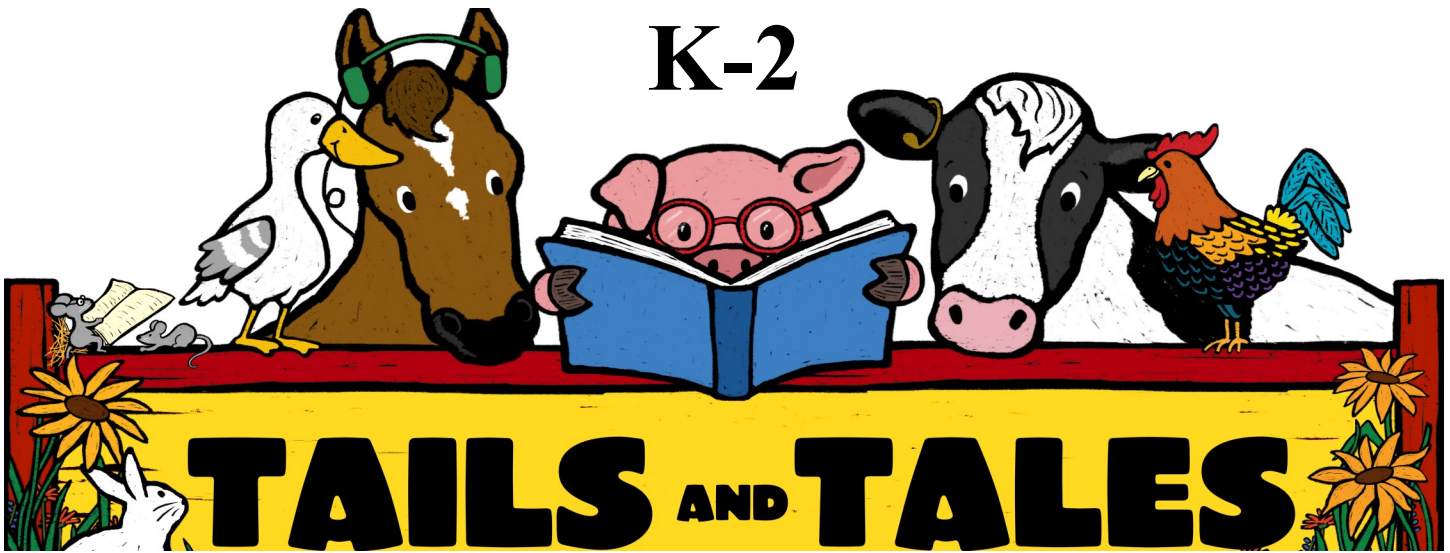
Book Titles:
Winter Cats
Mirabel's Missing Valentines



Rosemary Wells

Rosemary Wells grew up on the Jersey Shore and now lives in Connecticut. As a youth, Rosemary spent most of her life outdoors, running around and playing with the neighbors' kids. She grew up in a home filled with books and classical music, and began to draw at age two.

Book Titles:
Felix Eats Up
Noisy Nora
On The Blue Comet



Classics and Popular Titles

Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang

Numbers from ten to one are part of this lullaby, which observes the room of a little girl going to bed. | Lexile: NP500L

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

by Judi Barrett

Life is delicious in the town of Chewandswallow where it rains soup and juice, snows mashed potatoes, and blows storms of hamburgers, until the weather takes a turn for the worse. | Lexile: AD730L

Goodnight Moon

by Margaret Wise Brown

Goodnight to each of the objects in the great green room: goodnight chairs, goodnight comb, goodnight air. | Lexile: AD360L

Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type

by Doreen Cronin

When Farmer Brown's cows find a typewriter in the barn, they start making typewritten demands and go on strike when the farmer refuses to give them what they want. | Lexile: AD470L

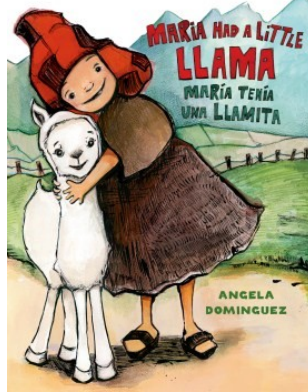
Maria Had a Little Llama / María Tenía una Llamita

by Angela Dominguez

In this bilingual version of the classic rhyme set in Peru, Maria takes her llama to school one day. | Lexile: AD530L

Abuela by Arthur Dorros

While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of new York City. | Lexile: 510L



Harold and the Purple Crayon

by Crockett Johnson

Harold goes for an adventurous walk in the moonlight with his purple crayon. | Lexile: AD490L

George and Martha by James Marshall

This popular book relates several episodes in the friendship of two hippopotamuses. | Lexile: AD530L

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

By Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault

An alphabet rhyme/chant that relates what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree. | Lexile: AD530L

Make Way for Ducklings

by Robert McCloskey

Mr. and Mrs. Mallard proudly return to their home in the Boston Public Garden with their eight offspring. | Lexile: AD710L

The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs

by Jon Scieszka

The wolf gives his own outlandish version of what *really* happened when he tangled with the three little pigs. | Lexile: AD510L

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

A band of mischievous monkeys steal every one of a peddler's caps while he takes a nap under a tree. | Lexile: AD480L

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!

by Mo Willems

When a bus driver takes a break from his route, a very unlikely volunteer springs up to take his place. | Lexile: 280L

